



USAG Schinnen ACS Newsletter

Volunteers: The Heart of Change

Tri-Border community volunteers and their guests celebrated National Volunteer Month at the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held April 29, 2011. All registered USAG Schinnen and Tri-Border volunteers, including Geilenkirchen Air Base volunteers, were recognized with certificates of appreciation for their service. Volunteers in various capacities enhance the quality of life for service members and their Families serving in government and private organizations. Several volunteers were nominated in six 2010 Volunteer of the Year categories and the winners were: SMSgt James Kagele, Military Volunteer of the Year; Lt Col David Jensen, Sponsor of the Year; Richard Pas, Civilian of the Year; Rachel Pagio, Youth Volunteer of the Year; Kelley Kagele, Family Member of the Year; and SGT Richard and Mrs Jill Norris & Family, Volunteer Family of the Year.



A ceremonial check payable to Tri-Border Commanders for \$1,194,597.36 representing the value of 55,926 reported volunteer hours in the Tri-Border community was proudly presented to LTC Chad Arcand and Col Gregory Clark by Sylvia Bowron, ACS Volunteer Coordinator and Shannon Bupp, from the Airman & Family Readiness Center.

We would like to thank all Tri-Border volunteers for their selfless service. They make a world of difference for our community! Interested in volunteering? Call DSN 360-7451 or commercial +31(0)46-443-7451.

Tri-Border Employment & Education Fair

May 25th from 10:00am to 1:00pm at JFC Conference Center, Brunssum

Whether you are a military spouse or Family member looking for a career, an active duty military about to separate or retire, or just wanting to find out about educational or volunteer opportunities in the Tri-Border area - this event is right for you! For more information call DSN 360-7500 or commercial at +31(0)46-443-7500.



May 2011



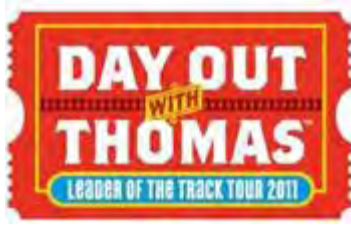
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For flyers & additional information about upcoming ACS events ...

- ACS Bulletin Boards
- AAFES/FMWR Bulletin Boards
- AFRC GK Bulletin Boards
- NATEX GK Bulletin Boards
- JFC Mail Room Bulletin Board
- JFC Library Bulletin Board
- Schinnen Electronic Reader Boards
- CFN and AFN Radio
- USAG Schinnen Website
www.usagschinnen.eur.army.mil
- Benelux MWR Website
www.mwrbenelux.com
- Schinnen Facebook
www.facebook.com

THOMAS Ticket Sales Now Begin!



All aboard! Thomas the Tank Engine™ is chugging into Simpelveld in October 22 to 23 for a **Day Out With Thomas™**. Thomas fans are invited to come and spend the day with their favorite No. 1 engine. For years, children have been captivated by the courageous adventures of Thomas

and his engine friends. During its 16th consecutive year, **Day Out With Thomas™** tour will make a stop in the heritage railway in Simpelveld, the Netherlands. Tickets are on sale now and run out quickly. You can buy the tickets exclusively online at www.miljoenenlijnshop.nl or by phone +31 (0)900-363-6966 (40 Euro cents per minute). The digital ticket that you receive by e-mail is your entrance ticket. For more information, contact ACS Information & Referral at DSN 360-7500 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7500.



PINKPOP 2011

The Netherlands' most famous open-air festival and Europe's longest-running uninterrupted outdoor pop festival PINKPOP will take place for the 42nd time in the city of Landgraaf, at the beautiful festival site MEGALAND. Since 1970 more than 1.9 million people have visited the festival and more than 500 acts have performed on stage.

This year's program will be just as sensational as in previous years. From June 11th to the 13th, PINKPOP will proudly present 39 bands on its three stages, including:

Saturday: Coldplay, Elbow, Lifehouse, De Staat, Alter Bridge, Simple Plan, Manic Street Preachers, Selah Sue, Ash and Madi.

Sunday: Kings of Leon, White Lies, Wolfmother, Tim Knol, Avenged Sevenfold, Justin Nozuka, Bloody Beetroots Death Crew 77, Graffiti6 and Laura Jansen.

Monday: Foo Fighters, Kaiser Chiefs, Volbeat, Go Back To The Zoo, Two Doors Cinema Club, Scouting For Girls, Thirty Seconds To Mars, The Script, The Gaslight, Anthem Beatsteaks, Plain White TS, Deadmau5, Band Of Horses, All Time Low and Dazzled Kid



PINKPOP will be shown live on Dutch National radio and television and through 3voor12.vpro.nl. Prices are: day ticket € 75,00 (excluding service costs) and weekend ticket € 150,00 (excluding service costs). Weekend ticket includes access to campsite, tents only! There are four large campsites, providing space for 50,000 campers.

For more information call ACS Information & Referral at DSN: 360-7500 or commercial +31(0)46-443-7500 or go to www.pinkpop.nl.

Knight Festival @ Castle Hoensbroek

The Knights' Festival at Castle Hoensbroek is an event full of knights riding on horses, sword fighting, and archery practice. The knights set up their camp around Hoensbroek Castle on June 4 -5 and June 12 -13 from 10:00am to 5:30pm. In the Knight Festival you will get a great view of how medieval knights live: cooking, eating and fighting among themselves. Of course, they're also busy taking care of their weapons and practicing their fighting techniques. Prices for adults are €10.00 and kids age 4-12 cost € 7.50. If you buy the tickets online you will receive 10% discount. For more information, contact ACS Information & Referral at DSN 360-7500 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7500 or go to www.kasteelhoensbroek.nl.



The Glass Blowing Factory at Monschau, Germany is not only a museum, but also a place where you can witness the making of vases, plates, antique vessels, drinking glasses and other objects. You can observe glassmakers working on glass furnaces. Watch products being ground to an artistic finish and see glassworker's tools from past centuries. The factory is open daily from 10:00am to 6:00pm. For information contact ACS Information & Referral at DSN 360-7500 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7500 or go to www.monschauer-handwerkermarkt.de. ACS is offering a *free* cultural adaptation trip to Monschau this month—see flyer on page 9.

Watch Out for the New Speed Cameras in Germany



New smaller speeding cameras in Germany are not as easily noticeable and can even be hidden. You can find them behind trees and bushes, between dividing lanes, and even disguised as traffic lights or street markers. These cameras can capture cars and motorcycles coming from both directions and take your picture from both the front and back. Drive safely at all times!



New Traffic Fines

- ♦ Parking ticket - up to €35
- ♦ Running a stop sign - €100 (running red light - from €90 - €360) , 4 points and one month suspended license
- ♦ Driving while intoxicated - up to €500 for first offense and €1,500 for second offense, 7 points and loss of license for up to one year
- ♦ Speeding - Up to 25 kilometers over the speed limit, up to €80 , if over 26 kilometers, as high as €280
- ♦ Failing to follow the "right of way" traffic - €100
- ♦ Road Rage - Tailgating a vehicle on autobahn, city road, anything to make a driving situation unsafe (high beaming), can be up €600 Euros, 4 points and 3 months suspended license

Who do We Appreciate?

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

- John F. Kennedy

How do we appreciate the blessings in our lives? How do we appreciate those who are special to us? Do we take the time to truly be thankful? Our culture has some days set aside to remind us to practice gratitude. Consider our observance of Veteran's Day, Father's Day, Mother's Day, and others. These days and others like them prescribe a time to take stock and appreciate those who have helped us, those who have served for us, those who have come before us. These days have been set aside to allow us this time of reflection and appreciation. One such day this month is Military Spouse Appreciation Day, which falls this year on Friday, May 6.



Consider observing this special day this year in a memorable way, and appreciate the sacrifices made by the military spouse in support of the military member's career and service to the country. Think about taking the opportunity to do something a little extra, taking the time to say "thank you for all you do," and honoring your military spouse in a new and different way. Your local ACS makes this easy and inexpensive with ***Military Spouse Appreciation Coupon Books*** available at no cost. The coupons entitle the military spouse to things like a bubble bath, a dinner, or a movie. Redemption of the coupons need not cost anything above a little of your time and some of your very own TLC. Pick one up at your Army Community Service, located in Building 39 of USAG Schinnen, present it to your spouse, and have fun expressing your gratitude for all he/she does for you.

New Rules about Credit Decisions & Notices

Starting in 2011, many credit-seeking consumers will get more information about how their credit report or credit score can impact a lender's decision to grant credit and the terms under which credit is offered. Beginning January 1, new rules from the Federal Reserve and the Federal Trade Commission require lenders to provide new information to consumers under certain conditions. Depending on the circumstances, when you apply for credit through a bank, credit union, or other lender, you may receive a notice with information about your credit report or credit score.

These new notices give you the opportunity to check the accuracy of the information in your credit report. The notices identify the credit bureau that provided your credit report or credit score to your lender, allowing you to dispute any information that you believe is incorrect. All of the notices provide information on how to obtain a free credit report.



If you receive a notice, it is important that you review the notice; if necessary, request a credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com; and finally, dispute any errors in your report.

For more information go to www.federalreserve.gov or contact the Financial Readiness Program at DSN 360-7450 or commercial +31 (0)43-446-7450

ThanksUSA is Accepting Scholarship Applications



ThanksUSA, a charitable organization, opened its sixth year of accepting applications for scholarships for spouses and children of U.S. military service personnel.

Interested applicants can find eligibility requirements and the online application at www.ThanksUSA.org. Applications will be accepted April 1 through May 15, 2011.

For more scholarship opportunities for military spouses go to the National Military Family Association (NMFA) website at <http://www.militaryfamily.org/>. NMFA provides a list of organizations that offer scholarship opportunities to military spouses.

Wednesday
May 18, 2011
1pm-3pm
ACS Conf Room

Interested in becoming a Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA)?
Learn the ins and outs of serving as a liaison between military command teams and Family Readiness Groups (FRG).

Lighting Tips for Saving Energy

Saving energy doesn't always take days of planning. There are many things you can do right now to start saving energy and cutting down on costs:

- ◆ Always switch off lights in unoccupied rooms. It is a popular myth that it is cheaper to leave a light on. Leaving lights on when you leave an area is one of those myths from the '70s that has somehow survived to this date.
- ◆ Use natural daylight where possible. It's free and more pleasant than artificial light.
- ◆ Only use required lights. For example a teacher working alone in a classroom may only require the row of lights above her/his desk.
- ◆ Use low wattage lights. Slim line fluorescent tubes can often be used as direct replacements for older tubes, and use 25% less electricity. Compact fluorescent lights (CLU's) use 80% less energy than a tungsten bulb and lasts ten times longer.
- Ensure outside lights are only on when required.



For more saving energy tips contact ACS or Schinnen's Housing Office at DSN 360-7500/7455 or commercial +31(0)46-443-7500/7455.



During May the USAG Schinnen Bowling Center will offer **Free Lunch Time Bowling** from 11:00am to 2:00pm as part of the National Military Appreciation Month. Shoe Rental is \$1.50. For information contact DSN 360-7207 or commercial +31 (0) 46-443-7207.

Staying Connected During Deployments

Getting through a deployment can be rough – even more so when Families are stationed overseas. The Tri-Border community is working hard to ensure that loved ones who stay behind in this area are kept informed of all the activities, trips and programs available to them during the deployment period.

There are several outlets for receiving information – even with the departure of the Tri-Border Reporter. One easy and comprehensive way to stay in touch is with the USAG Schinnen “Goings On” at <http://www.usagschinnen.eur.army.mil/sites/local/GoingsOn.html>. It has all the news and events for all our area installations.



ACS continues to publish our newsletter regularly – and we try to include flyers for upcoming events along with Army and DoD-wide information relevant to our readers both in the Tri-Border area and at geographically separated units. We know that some Families return to the U.S. during deployments and we want to include them in our readership, as well.

The Yellow Ribbon Room at Schinnen’s ACS is another way for Families to stay in touch with loved ones. All the services there are free, including laptops, printers, SKYPE, and a range of personalized products including mouse pads, calendars, and pillowcases. Bring in pictures of your loved ones and we

will help you make magic and memories to send off to your deployed service member or civilian.

Army One Source is another great resource. This website resource publishes a monthly newsletter with great human interest features and news that you need to know about entitlements and great opportunities for service members, spouses and children.

Call Mobilization and Deployment Program at DSN 360-7218 or commercial +31 (0)46-443-7218 for more information, resources and tips to stay in touch during deployments. Whether you want to reach out to your deployed loved one, those back home, or those in the Tri-Border community, *we can help you!*

Please contact Schinnen's Deployment program at +31(0)46-4437218 or the AIS Counselor at +31(0)45-527-8274 for more information.

HEARTS APART JR.

Friday, May 6, 2011
9:30am-10:30am
AFNORTH Library

Hearts Apart Jr. at AFNORTH Elementary School is a monthly support meeting for students in grades 1Y1-M2 with a deployed parent or parent who is away for an extended period. This group is a great way to assist children in dealing with separations or the reintegration process. We provide resources and skills to help children better cope with deployment cycles/separations and allow children get together, along with caring professionals, to have fun, complete crafts, and talk about their feelings in a safe and comforting environment.

TEEN HEARTS APART

MONTHLY

(CALL FOR DATES...)
SEMINAR PERIOD
2:10PM-3:30PM

Have a parent deployed? This teen group meets monthly and does cool stuff. Meet other teens facing deployments!

Call +31(0)46-443-7218 or +31(0)46-527-8270 for more information.

Navigating Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Overseas

The U.S. Army's Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) program has come a long way in its few short years of existence. There has been, thanks in large part to compassionate Army leadership, an increased focus on caring for Survivors of Fallen Warriors long after Casualty Assistance Officers have taken care of their business.



The renewed focus on caring for Survivors as they navigate through their new lives has impacted Survivors around the globe. Increased specialized staff and training all make the process of living without a loved one a little bit easier. SOS in Europe is a bit more difficult to define, since there are Survivors spread out over a large geographic area – which includes several countries, each of which has their own laws and procedures for addressing Survivor needs.

One of the best features about the SOS program is the linkages made between government agencies and private sector organizations and non-profit groups. While these linkages do exist in Europe, getting them going and finding enough participants to start up chapters has been more difficult in Europe than in the U.S. Fortunately, several caring professionals and Survivors have been working hard to establish chapters of some of the more popular Survivor groups.

Additionally, private organizations serving Survivors have extended many of their benefits and operations to those living outside the United States. As more and more professionals are hired and trained in the SOS field and program, these linkages will expand and will result in increased services and opportunities for Survivors living overseas. Stay tuned! For more information about this and other Survivor benefits, please contact the SOS Program at DSN 360-7218 or commercial +31(0) 46-443-7218.

Resources Especially for Military Families

Being part of a military Family can be filled with many surprises, challenges, and opportunities. Part of the military life is moving to new locations every few years or even more frequently. This can be a bit more challenging when there's a child in the Family who has a disability. Lots of questions naturally arise: Will special education services be available in the new location? What about the types of therapists or expertise your child needs? What do you need to do to get ready?



Fortunately, there is help available to make the Family's transition from one location to another a bit more smoothly. *Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP)* is an organization that provides information and help to military Families who have children with special needs. STOMP staff is made up of parents of children with special needs who are trained to work with other parents. As spouses of service members, the staff understands the unique needs of military Families. To contact STOMP call 1.800.5.PARENT (V/TTY) or write STOMP 6316 So. 12th Street, Tacoma, WA 98465. For more information go to www.stompproject.org or contact the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) at DSN 360-7500 or commercial +31(0) 46-443-7500.

Army Family Team Building (AFTB) Level I Training



The next AFTB Level I training will be held June 2 and 3, 2011 from 9:30am to 3:00pm in the ACS Conference Room. The level I course is designed for people new to the military or anyone interested in updating personal skills and basic knowledge. Participants learn about the military lifestyle, culture and how to maneuver through its challenges. This training will help you become more comfortable in your military environment by learning the military lingo and develop realistic expectations. Come and learn about your benefits and how to access services available to you as a member of the military Family.

AFTB classes are free and open to all military services, Family members and civilians. To sign up, call DSN 360-7482/7500 or commercial +31 (0) 46-443-7482/7500 to register.

Learn, Grow, Lead... with AFTB

2011 AER Campaign

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign is well underway! AER is a private, non-profit organization that provides active duty Soldiers, retirees, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers financial assistance for essential emergency needs. The 2011 Campaign is open until **May 15**. All contributions are fully tax deductible. To learn more about AER or to donate, call DSN 360-7450 or commercial +31(0) 46-443-7450 or visit the AER website at



www.aerhq.org. Go to USAG Schinnen Facebook page to watch our donations grow or check out the thermometer as you drive on post.



**SPONSORSHIP
TRAINING**

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
MARCH 16 APRIL 20 MAY 18
1:00PM – 2:30PM
SCHINNEN ACS BLDG 39


MOVING INTO NEW ASSIGNMENTS AND DUTY STATIONS CAN BE STRESSFUL. SPONSORS HELP WITH THIS TRANSITION. ACS PROVIDES SPONSORS WITH ONLINE AND LOCAL TRAINING. WE'LL GUIDE YOU TO THE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO BE A GREAT SPONSOR!




CALL RELOCATION READINESS TO SIGN UP, OR FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT DSN 360-7500 OR COMMERCIAL +31(0) 46-443-7500

USAG Schinnen

Relocation Readiness Program




Third Wednesday of the Month
Spring Classes:
March 16/April 20/May 18, 2011
10:00am-11:30am (BLDG 39)

Smooth Move

Pre-Departure Services

Wondering how to plan for your PCS move?
 How soon do you need to notify your T.V., cable, internet and cell phone companies that you're leaving?
 What kind of financial expenses can you expect?
 The answers to these and many more questions are waiting here at ACS...



Please contact ACS Relocation Readiness program at DSN 360-7500 or commercial +31(0) 46-443-7500 to sign up for this class, or to schedule a one-on-one class to make sure you're prepared for your next move!



Schinnen family fun Fitness Festival

Saturday 28 May
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SUPER SALES AT THE EXCHANGE/COMMISSARY

FITNESS ACTIVITIES

PRIZE GIVEAWAYS

HEALTH SCREENINGS

FACE PAINTING

NUTRITIOUS FOOD SAMPLES

CHILDRENS GAMES

FESTIVAL LIKE ATMOSPHERE

Jedi X

EXCHANGE

MWR

Beyond the Gate
Explore Monschau, Germany
Friday May 27, 2011



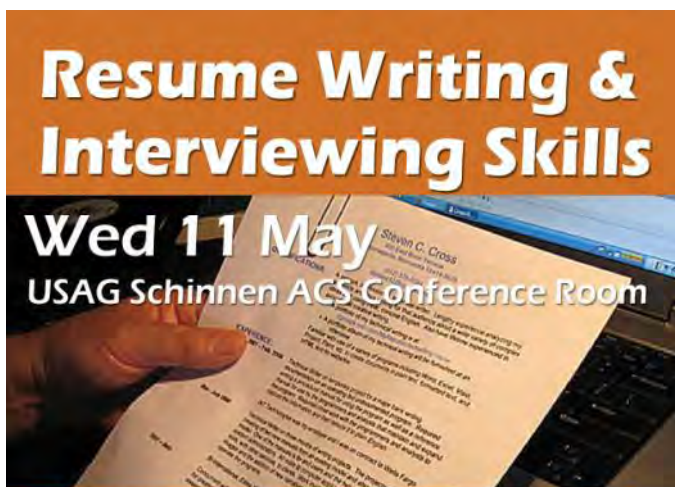
Monschau
Monschau, the Charming Gem of the Eifel Region



Free

With its historical Old Town and unique location amidst the famous hedges and impressive scenery of the surrounding Venn region, Monschau is a scenic village with plenty to offer. As a stroll through its winding alleys will soon reveal, the romantic half-timbered houses harbor a rich mosaic of art, culture and museums. You'll want to return on your own!

Tour bus departs at 9:00am from Schinnen's Army Community Service (ACS) Center, Building 39, and returns to Schinnen by 3:00pm. Contact ACS for to reserve a space or for more information at DSN 360-7500 or commercial +31(0)46-443-7500.



Resume Writing & Interviewing Skills

Wed 11 May
USAG Schinnen ACS Conference Room

0900 - 1030 Employment Resume Writing Class

Learn to write more effective resumes that highlight and market your knowledge, skills and abilities. We will review different resume styles and look at the resume writing process for getting a job with the federal government.

1030 - 1130 - Interviewing Skills

Be prepared for your next interview with tips to dazzle future employers. The class will cover preparing for an interview, getting into the right mind set, and how to convince potential employers you are a perfect fit for the position.

For more information please call
DSN 360-7269/7500 or CIV 0031(0)46-443-7269/7500

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE ACS
RealLife Solutions for Successful Army Living

MWR



Family Advocacy Program and
Exceptional Family Member Program

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



How to Train Your Dragon

Come and enjoy some
film, snacks, and fun...

Thursday, 12 May 2011
Film starts at 6:00 p.m.



Rated PG for sequences of intense action and some scary images, and brief mild language.

Contact Family Advocacy at DSN 360-7500
or commercial +31(0)46-443-7500 to sign up



ACS Events



May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <i>Stroller Fitness</i> 10:00am - 11:00am Fitness Center	4	5 <i>Tiny Tunes/Play Morning</i> 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center <i>Heinsberg Hospital Tour</i> 1900, Heinsberg Hospital Main Entrance	6 <i>Hearts Apart Jr</i> 9:30am - 1030am AIS HAPPY <i>Military Spouse</i> APPRECIATION DAY!	7
8 	9	10 <i>Stroller Fitness</i> 10:00am - 11:00am Schinnen Fitness Center	11 <i>Resume Writing</i> 9:00am - 10:15am ACS <i>Interviewing Skills</i> 10:30-11:30am ACS	12 <i>Tiny Tunes/Play Morning</i> 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center <i>Family Movie Night</i> <i>How to Train your Dragon</i> 6:00pm ACS Rated "G"	13	14
15	16	17 <i>Stroller Fitness</i> 10:00am - 11:00am Schinnen Fitness Center	18 <i>Smooth Move</i> 10:00am - 11:30am ACS <i>Sponsorship Training</i> 1:00pm - 2:30pm ACS <i>Family Readiness Support Assistant Training</i> 1:00pm - 3:00pm ACS Conference Room	19 <i>Tiny Tunes/Play Morning</i> 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center 	20 <i>Newcomer's Orientation & Tour</i> 8:00am - 4:00pm Begins and Ends at ACS	21
22	23	24 <i>Stroller Fitness</i> 10:00am - 11:00am Schinnen Fitness Center 	25 <i>Employment & Education Fair</i> 10:00am - 1:00pm JFC Conference Center	26 <i>Tiny Tunes/Play Morning</i> 9:30am - 11:30am Activity Center	27 <i>Explore Monschau</i> 9:00am - 3:00pm Begins and Ends at ACS	28 <i>Family, Fitness & Fun</i> 10:00am - 3:00pm Community Activity Center
29	30	31 <i>Stroller Fitness</i> 10:00am - 11:00am Fitness Center	 <p>USAG Schinnen Army Community Service Unit 21602 APO AE, 09703 Building 39 DSN 360-7500 or +31(0) 46-443-7500 Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm</p>			